

# Transcontinental May Day 2017

Since 2008 global days and weeks of action were coordinated almost annually through the International Student Movement (ISM) platform. This year the focus is on May Day 2017 and currently people work on a common framework that can be adopted by groups, initiatives and labour unions worldwide to easily put their May Day activities into a global context.

So far it was agreed that the framework will consist of the following three elements:

- **Call to action** (draft below)
- Suggestions for **common symbols** (still to be agreed on)
- the hashtag **#1world1struggle** (to be added to local slogans, visually linking activities on the local level with the struggle on the global level)

## Short intro to the ISM:

The International Student Movement (ISM) is an open platform for cooperation, coordination, communication, and collaboration between different individuals and groups involved with the struggle against the increasing commercialization of education as well as for free emancipatory education. It was initiated in 2008 following an International Day of Action against the Commercialization of Education (Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> 2008).

The ISM is generally open to everyone – no matter whether you are a student/pupil, parent, lecturer/faculty, or staff/worker, unemployed, – everyone who supports the collective struggle is welcome. The ISM has always been and will always be independent of any political party, union, or other institution.

Due to the nature of platforms nobody can represent or speak for the ISM as a whole.



## Communication infrastructure to coordinate the Transcontinental May Day:

- newly set up mailing list: <https://lists.riseup.net/www/info/mayday2017>
- pad: <https://titanpad.com/mayday2017>
- facebook group: <https://fb.com/groups/mayday2017>
- subpage on <http://global-ism.space> – still to be set up with separate domain (e.g. mayday2017.tk)

## Next steps:

- chat meeting on Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> (4pm UTC) with the focus on:
  - suggestions for common symbols
  - proposal for coordinated banner action at May Day rallies (the idea is that for example workers in the retail industry connect with workers involved in the garment industry and carry banners expressing solidarity in each others language on a banner at the demo.)
- final version of the call to action to be agreed on during chat meeting on Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> (4pm UTC); deadline for feedback: Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup>

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## Call to action (draft): Transcontinental May Day 2017

This is a call to link May Day activities transnationally. With the aide of the provided framework, local activities are complemented by the transcontinental dimension of the struggle.

A group of students and workers associated with the International Student Movement (ISM) platform assembled during a series of chat meetings. They decided to call for labor unions as well as grassroots groups and initiatives to put their May Day activities into a global context.

We, as workers and students, unite in solidarity, because no matter where one lives, we are facing the same struggle against profit-driven interests. Budget cuts in public services, outsourcing, privatization, climbing living costs and tuition fees among other symptoms, are all directly linked to a global system based on exploitation and competition. This leads to the commercialization of all life aspects.

Students around the globe are drowning in debt. These debts, supported by the individualistic notion of "investing in one's own future", are re-paid by selling one's future labor. The increasing pressure to perform is sickening, be it in the workplace, university, schools and increasingly through adolescent stage of life. The logic of the market and corresponding nation-state structures require that conformity, competitiveness and profits take priority over developing the capabilities for emancipatory thinking. The present system educates us solely within the boundaries of what is compatible within the capitalist paradigm. What we need is open and freely accessible emancipatory education for all - no matter one's socioeconomic status. We do not intend to simply disrupt; we seek to overcome.

Given the transnational nature of capitalism, it is just as important for workers and students to connect on the global level. This aides in our struggle by illuminating the global dynamics shaping local conditions everywhere. Furthermore it opens up new potentialities and scopes of action within the struggle against exploitation as well as precarious working and living conditions. The bargaining power of workers would increase tremendously, if they were to unite within the same value-added chain. For example, imagine if the striking miners in Marikana (South Africa) and workers of the BASF chemical plants located in Germany were to unite given that BASF is the primary purchaser of the resources produced by the miners. Such linkages could have significantly altered or perhaps even prevented the 2012 massacre [<http://basflonmin.com/home/>].

Adopting this common global framework for May Day 2017 is to be understood as a component in the process of connecting globally with the intention of creating new channels in our struggle for a better life. Last, but not least, such an effort by definition seeks to counter nationalist and xenophobic tendencies currently on the rise in many parts of the world!

By adopting the suggested common framework for May Day 2017 we will push forward the transnationalisation of the struggle together for a better life for all.

**#1world1struggle**

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All groups supporting this initiative are invited to give feedback on the call by Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup> and to participate in the chat meeting on Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> to agree on a final version.

To give feedback or express interest in the project you can also leave a message inside this pad: <https://titanpad.com/mayday2017>



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